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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: ) Group Art Unit: 3731  
Christopher G. M. Ken, et al. ) Examiner: G. Phanijphand  
Serial No.: 09/523,585 )  
Filed: March 10, 2000 )  
For: DETACHABLE ANEURYSM NECK )  
BRIDGE (III) )

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of this application on the merits, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 17 through 30, and add new claims 31 through 44 as follows:

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31. An implantable retainer, deliverable via an elongate tubular delivery device for retaining vaso-occlusive device in an aneurysm, comprising:

- (a) a core wire having a proximal end and a distal end,
- (b) a joint extending between the distal end of the core wire and at least one array element, said joint being electrolytically severable upon application of a suitable current to said joint, said joint being comparatively more susceptible to electrolytic severability than said core wire and said at least one array element, and
- (c) a retainer assembly comprising said at least one array element, said retainer assembly having a first delivery shape when retained within said elongate tubular delivery device and having a distal delivery end and a proximal delivery end, and a second deployed shape, different

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than first delivery shape when said retainer assembly is not retained within said tubular delivery device and having a distal deployed and an proximal deployed end, said at least one array element extending outwardly from said joint in said second deployed shape, and wherein after electrolytic severance from said core wire said retainer assembly includes a residual joint.

32. The implantable retainer of claim 31, wherein said core wire is covered with an electrical insulation layer from near its proximal end to near its distal end.

33. The implantable retainer of claim 31, wherein said at least one array element comprises platinum.

34. The implantable retainer of claim 31, wherein said at least one array element comprises tantalum.

35. The implantable retainer of claim 31, wherein said at least one array element comprises stainless steel.

36. The implantable retainer of claim 31, wherein said at least one array element comprises a super-elastic alloy.

37. The implantable retainer of claim 31, wherein at least a portion of said at least one array element is covered by radio-opaque material.

38. The implantable retainer of claim 37, wherein said radio-opaque material is platinum.

39. The implantable retainer of claim 31, wherein when said retainer assembly is in said second deployed shape, each of said at least one array element terminates remotely from said joint.

40. The implantable retainer of claim 31, wherein when said retainer assembly is in said second deployed shape said residual joint is distal to said proximal deployed end.

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41. The implantable retainer of claim 31, wherein when said retainer assembly is in said second deployed shape said residual joint is on said proximal deployed end.

42. The implantable retainer of claim 31, wherein said proximal deployed end is distal to said proximal delivery end when the retainer assembly is in the second deployed shape.

*B Sub  
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43. The implantable retainer of claim 31, wherein said secondary form approximates the shape of a vascular aneurysm.

44. The implantable retainer of claim 31, wherein said retainer assembly encloses a volume and wherein said implantable retainer contains a helically wound vaso-occlusive device.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be entered before examination of the above-identified application. The new claims add no new matter to the pending application. All claims copied from U.S. Patent 5,916,235 have been cancelled.

Applicants hereby withdraw their prior request for an interference with U.S. Patent 5,916,235.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned at the number listed below is respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,  
LYON & LYON LLP

Dated: 7-3-02  
633 West Fifth Street, Suite 4700  
Los Angeles, California 90071-2066  
(408) 993-1555  
(408) 287-2664 fax

By: DTB  
David T. Burse  
Reg. No. 37,104

**LYON & LYON LLP**  
A LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP  
INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS  
333 West San Carlos Street, Suite 800  
San Jose, California 95110  
Phone: (408) 993-1555  
Fax: (408) 287-2664

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<b>To:</b> Gwen Phanijphand, Examiner	<b>Fax Number:</b> 703-746-9125	<b>Phone Number:</b> 703-305-4845
<b>From:</b> David T. Burse	<b>Fax Number:</b> 408-287-2664	<b>Phone Number:</b> 408-993-1555
<b>Re:</b> Preliminary Amendment to App. 09/523,585	<b>Date/Time sent:</b> 7/3/02 3:36 PM	<b>No. of Pages:</b> 4 (incl. cover)
<b>Client Name:</b> Target Therapeutics	<b>Client Matter No.:</b> 02690842	

**Notes/Comments:**

In accordance with our teleconference this afternoon, please find enclosed a Preliminary Amendment indicating the amended claims we discussed over the phone. Thank you.

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